

Docket No.: YOR920000621US1

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for processing a  
5 transaction, comprising:  
determining a purchase price for said transaction, said purchase price  
including a fractional cost that exceeds a whole-unit amount;  
generating a random number; and  
rounding said purchase price up or down to a whole-unit amount based on  
10 said random number.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of generating a  
random number is performed by a third party to said transaction.
- 15 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of generating a  
random number is supervised by a third party to said transaction.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of generating a  
random number further comprises the step of obtaining a seller-generated increment  
20 value.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of generating a  
random number further comprises the step of obtaining a buyer-provided offset value.
- 25 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a buyer commitment to the  
transaction is obtained by means of currency submitted to a vending machine.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a buyer commitment to the  
transaction is obtained by means of currency submitted to a trusted third party prior to the  
30 generation of said random number.

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8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said buyer-provided offset value is specified by the buyer in response to a query.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said buyer-provided offset value is generated from a serial number obtained from paper currency provided by the buyer.

10. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said buyer-provided offset value is generated from a numeric identifier obtained from a product associated with said transaction.

11. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the seller generated random number is made without access to said buyer-provided offset value.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for processing a transaction, comprising:

determining a purchase price,  $N.C$ , for said transaction, said purchase price including a fractional cost equal to  $C/100$ , that exceeds a whole-unit amount,  $N$ ;

generating a random number; and

rounding said purchase price up to a price of  $N+1$  units with a probability of  $p$  and down to a price of  $N$  units with a probability of  $(1-p)$ , wherein probability  $p$  equals  $C/100$ .

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of generating a random number is performed in a manner that prevents a bias towards a buyer or seller.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of obtaining a buyer commitment to the transaction.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for processing a transaction, comprising:

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determining a purchase price,  $N.C$ , for said transaction, said purchase price including a fractional cost equal to  $C/100$ , that exceeds a whole-unit amount,  $N$ ;  
receiving an amount of  $X$  units from a buyer, where  $X$  is greater than  $N$ ;  
generating a random number; and  
5 rounding said purchase price up to a price of  $X$  units with a probability of  $((N + p) / X)$  and down to a price of zero units with a probability of  $1 - ((N + p) / X)$ , wherein probability  $p$  equals  $C/100$ .

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said step of generating a  
10 random number is performed in a manner that prevents a bias towards a buyer or seller.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of obtaining a buyer commitment to the transaction.

15 18. (Original) A system for processing a transaction, comprising:  
a memory that stores computer-readable code; and  
a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:  
determine a purchase price for said transaction, said purchase price  
20 including a fractional cost that exceeds a whole-unit amount;  
generate a random number; and  
round said purchase price up or down to a whole-unit amount based on said random number.

25 19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said random number is generated in a manner that prevents a bias towards a buyer or seller.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said processor is further configured to obtain a buyer commitment to the transaction.

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21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein said purchase price, N.C, for said transaction includes a fractional cost equal to  $C/100$ , that exceeds a whole-unit amount, N, and said purchase price is rounded up to a price of N+1 units with a probability of p and rounded down to a price of N units with a probability of (1-p),  
5 wherein probability p equals  $C/100$ .

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein said purchase price, N.C, for said transaction includes a fractional cost equal to  $C/100$ , that exceeds a whole-unit amount, N and wherein an amount of X units is received from a buyer, where  
10 X is greater than N, and wherein said purchase price is rounded up to a price of X units with a probability of  $((N + p) / X)$  and rounded down to a price of zero units with a probability of  $1 - ((N + p) / X)$ , wherein probability p equals  $C/100$ .

23. (Original) An article of manufacture for processing a transaction,  
15 comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to determine a purchase price for said transaction, said purchase price including a fractional cost that exceeds a whole-unit amount;

20 a step to generate a random number; and

a step to round said purchase price up or down to a whole-unit amount based on said random number.